This strained reception under which Pavie divined the effort to mask great natural benevolence; the embarrased bearing of the /260/ eldest son Kham-Souk and that of the Oupahat, "princes already mature" who although titular holders of the first offices in the land held themselves "humble before the Kaluongs, seeking approval in their eyes of the replies which they make" to the visitor; and the praises which he heard "whispered in the town of this king who is cherished by his people" but placed in guardianship by foreign agents, confirmed the suspicions which had been aroused in his mind by the enigmatic and reserved attitude of the Kaluongs. He consigned his impressions to his travel journal: "I have an increasing suspicion that your soldiers are waging a campaign in a land where Siam has no business to be. Even here where we are, I sense that your rights are not established..." (1). 648* 175* /643/*

1. Mission Pavie, ibid. /"Geographie et Voyages," Vol. VI/, p. 38.

Finally the Chao-Meun arrived. On March 13 he appeared in a brilliant parade surrounded by his officers, by the princes in ceremonial dress and by the leaders of the bonzes who came to thank him "for having saved the country and guaranteed peace on the frontiers." His troops were clothed in blue and helmeted in white, and filed past in European fashion led by buglers under triumphal arches which had been erected in their honor all the way from the bank to the camp entrance. Young, alert, "full of well-being and charm," Vai- /261/ /Page 261 is devoted to an illustration: "The peristyle of the Vat-Mai in Luang-Prabang."--Translator/ /262/ Voronat received Pavie with kind assurances, declared that he would have full prerogatives and told him of the success of his campaign in the Houa-Phans and the Black River cantons. According to him all of these regions would henceforth be pacified, and the bands of Hos which he had not driven out had made their submission and acknowledged Siam's authority. As a guaranty of their faith he was followed by a large number of hostages. The French "traveler" might, therefore, since he held firm to his purpose, continue his journey towards Tonkin in complete security even though the coming rains would risk making the roads difficult and the climate dangerous... it was thus that his forces had lost a third of their total number by fever last year. He added that during his stay in Muong-Son he had met the great /704/